Amendments to the Specification:

The paragraph starting at page 6, line 20 has been amended as follows:

~~**Figure 1**~~ FIGS. 1A-1F Inhibition of prostaglandin $F_{2\alpha}$ ($PGF_{2\alpha}$)-induced spreading response by IGF-γ. Myocytes were pre-incubated with saline vehicle or IFN-γ (500U/ml) on day of isolation. A second addition of vehicle or IFN-γ was performed 24h after isolation, along with the addition of either vehicle or $PGF_{2\alpha}$ (10^{-7} M). After an additional 72 h incubation, cells were fixed in glutaraldehyde, stained with eosin Y and viewed by fluorescent microscopy. ~~A,B,C~~ A, B, C Cardiac myocytes after 4 days in culture: control, $PGF_{2\alpha}$, and $PGF_{2\alpha}$+IFN-γ, respectively. D. E. F Histographs showing maximum breadth of rod shaped cardiac myocytes versus percent frequency of breadth occurrence. The maximum breadth of rod-shaped cells was determined by fluorescence microscopy and imaging software. At least 200 rod shaped cells from a single experiment were examined by group. IFN-γ alone had no observable effect on the morphology of the cells. $P<0.001$ for all group comparisons.

The paragraph starting at page 6, line 30 has been amended as follows:

~~**Figure 2**~~ FIGS. 2A-2E Dose responsive inhibition of $PGF_{2\alpha}$-induced response by IFN-γ (500-25 U/ml). Myocytes were pre-incubated with saline vehicle or IFN-γ on day of isolation. A second amount of IFN-γ was added 24 hr after isolation, along with the addition of either vehicle or $PGF_{2\alpha}$ (10^{-7} M). After an additional 72 he incubation, cells were fixed in glutaraldehyde, stained with eosin Y and viewed under fluorescence. Quantitation of myocyte morphology: ~~A~~ A control, ~~B~~ B $PGF_{2\alpha}$, ~~C~~ C $PGF_{2\alpha}$+IFN-γ (25U/ml), ~~D~~ D $PGF_{2\alpha}$+IFN-γ (100U/ml), ~~E~~ E $PGF_{2\alpha}$+IFN-γ (500U/ml). Histographs showing maximum breadth of rod-shaped cardiac myocytes versus percent frequency of breadth occurrence. The maximum breadth of rod-shaped cells was determined by fluorescence microscopy and imaging software. At least 200 rod shaped cells from a single experiment were examined per group. IFN-γ alone had no observable effect on the morphology of these cells. $P<0.001$ for all group comparisons.

The paragraph starting at page 7, line 8 has been amended as follows:

~~**Figure 3**~~ FIGS. 3A-3F Inhibition of phenyephedrine (PE)-induced spreading response by IFN-γ. Myocytes were pre-incubated with saline vehicle or IFN-γ (500 U/ml) on day of isolation. A second addition of vehicle or IFN-γ was performed 24h after isolation, along with the addition of either vehicle or PE (10^{-5} M). After an additional 72 he incubation, cells were fixed in glutaraldehyde, stained with eosin Y and viewed by fluorescence microscopy. ~~**A, B, C**~~ A, B, C Cardiac myocytes after 4 days in culture: control, PE, and PE+IFN-γ, respectively. D, E, F Histographs showing maximum breadth of rod shaped cardiac myocytes versus percent frequency of breadth occurrence. The maximum breadth of rod-shaped cells was determined by fluorescence microscopy and imaging software. At least 200 rod shaped cells from a single experiment were examined per group. IFN-γ alone had no observable effect on the morphology of these cells. $P<0.001$ for all group comparisons.

The paragraph starting at page 7, line 18 has been amended as follows:

~~**Figure 4**~~ FIGS. 4A-4C Effects of IFN-γ on cardiac hypertrophy induced by fluprostenol in rats. Data are presented as mean ± SEM. The number in ~~parentheses~~ parenthesis is the number of animals in each group. *$P<0.05$, *$P<0.01$, compared to the vehicle group. #$P<0.05$, ##$P<0.01$, compared to the Flup group. Flup: fluprostenol; IFN: IFN-γ; HW: heart weight; BW: body weight; VW: ventricular weight; LVW: left ventricular weight.

The paragraph starting at page 7, line 23 has been amended as follows:

~~**Figure 5**~~ FIGS. 5A-5B Effects of Flup and/or IFN on MAP and HR. Data are presented as mean ± SEM. The number in parenthesis is the number of animals in each group. *$P<0.05$, compared to the vehicle group. #$P<0.05$, compared to the Flup group. +$P<0.05$, compared to the Flup+IFN group. Flup: ~~fluoprostenol~~ fluprostenol; IFN: IFN-γ; MAP: mean arterial pressure; HR: heart rate.

~~Figure 6~~ FIGS. 6A-6D Bargraphs showing the effect of fluprostenol (FLUP) and IFN-γ on: **A** A Skeletal activ (SKA); **B** B Sarcoplasmic reticulum calcium ATPase (SRCA); **C** C Collagen I (COL I); **D** D Artrial natriuretic factor (ANF) expression. Expression levels are normalized to glyceraldehydes-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH) message. VEH is vehicle.. There were 7 animals per group and the data are presented as the mean ± SEM. P<0.05 vs VEH group.

~~Figure 7~~ FIGS. 7A-7C Effects of IFN-γ on heart weight, ventricular weight, and left ventricular weight in rats with pressure overload. Data are presented as mean ± SEM. The number in parenthesis is the number of animals in each group. **P<0.01, compared to the sham group. ##P<0.01, compared to the Banded+vehicle group. Sham: sham-operated rats; Banded: aortic-banded rats; IFN: IFN-γ; HW: heart weight; VW: ventricular weight; LVW: left ventricular weight.

~~Figure 8~~ FIGS. 8A-8C Effects of IFN-γ on the ratio of heart weight, ventricular weight, and left ventricular weight to body weight in rats with pressure overload. Data are presented as mean ± SEM. The number in parenthesis is the number f animals in each group. **P<0.01, compared to the sham group, ##P<0.01, compared to the Banded+vehicle group. Sham: sham-operated rats; Banded: aortic-banded rats: IFN: IFN-γ; HW: heart weight; BW: body weight; VW: ventricular weight; LVW: left ventricular weight.

~~Figure 9~~ FIGS. 9A-9C Effect of IFN-γ on systolic arterial pressure, mean arterial pressure, and diastolic arterial pressure in rats with pressure overload. The number in parenthesis is the number of animals in each group. **P<0.01,_compared to the sham group. Sham: sham-operated rats; Banded: aortic-banded rats; IFN: IFN-γ; SAP: systolic arterial pressure; MAP: mean arterial pressure; DAP: diastolic arterial pressure.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-1641 (Attorney Docket No.: 39766-0068A2D1). Please direct any calls in connection with this application to the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 22, 2005

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